

Please, OPPOSE the diversion of \$15.2 million from the Community Investment Act as proposed in HB 6825, the Governor's Deficiency Bill.

It is outrageous for the Connecticut Legislature to even consider essentially stealing funds that were raised by special fees and dedicated to Community Investment Act. In 2005 Connecticut legislature had the great wisdom to create a fund raised through a modest fee of \$40 per transaction added to real estate recording fees. This fund is specifically dedicated to support open space acquisition, affordable housing, farmland and historic preservation.

We are shocked think that Governor Malloy's proposed Fiscal Year 2016 budget would eliminate \$15.2 million from the Community Investment Fund (CIA) now, and the complete taking of all funds due to be collected in the next two years. Another \$7.5 million in grants intended to match private philanthropy would also be lost.

In our hometown, Glastonbury, we have seen a few of the important projects benefited by funding from the Community Investment Act. In the last ten years has helped preserve 19 parcels, totaling 718 acres of open space, through matching grants to the Town of Glastonbury and Kongscut Land Trust. Examples of the land it helped save are the Old Cider Mill, the forested portion of Arbor Acres and numerous private parcels within Meshomasic Forest.

While we also commend the work the CIA has done for preservation of farmland, plus aid for affordable housing and historic preservation, we are particularly disturbed that it would include \$10 million from DEEP's open space grants program for this year. This cut could put funding in jeopardy for DEEP to be able to give open space grants to land trusts and municipalities over the next two years and would likely end the program forever.

We remind you that preserved open space helps to protect the quality of our air and water. Wildlife does not require schools or town services. Open space helps make the state of Connecticut a good place to live or visit.

If the state needs more money, we would favor restarting highway tolls.

Please preserve the Community Investment Act.

Gerhard & Edith Schade
887 Goodale Hill Road
Glastonbury, CT 06033